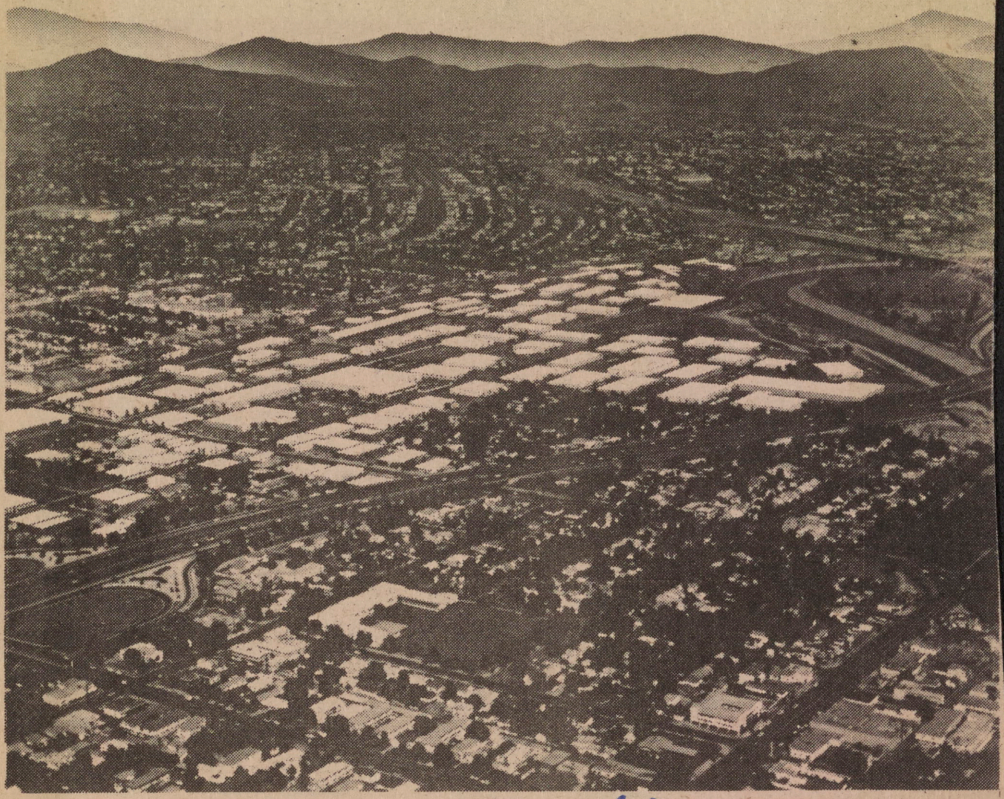
The Ledger, December 31, 1972
50th ANNIVERSARY EDITION



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GRAND CENTRAL — Many industrial buildings now fill the area that once contined an air field. This picture of Grand Central Industrial Centre was taken from the vicinity of Griffith Park looking east over the Golden State Freeway. The freeway to the right of the photo is the Ventura stretching toward Pasadena.

Grand Central Now Home for Industry

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In 1922, when the first issue of The Ledger was published, the Glendale City Council approved funds to pave a landing strip in the western portion of the city.

The area, which had been used by barnstormers, quickly grew into one of the major airports in the Southland.

Fifty years later the 112 acres that once comprised the Grand Central Air Terminal are filled with dozens of large modern industrial buildings. It is called Grand Central Industrial Centre, a futuristic industrial park with a touch of nostalgia.

The old control tower that watched Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan, Charles Lindbergh and Paul Mantz make flying history still stands next to the Grand Central Building.

The structure itself, modernized several years ago, was the terminal building. It now houses the centre's offices and an array of rental office suites.

The airport began substantial growth after 1929 when the Curtiss-Wright Co. purchased it as part of a national string of air fields.

During the 1930's Grand Central was the major commercial airport for Los Angeles with flights connecting with Mexico as well as many U.S. destinations.

In the '40s the face of the airport changed. The commercial airlines moved out and flight schools and aircraft maintenance shops located there.

By the 1950s the airstrip was used mainly by private pilots. In 1954 a retired Army Air Corps flyer, C. C. Moseley, who had owned the field since 1944, started Grand Central Industrial Centre.

The airport remained open on a limited basis until 1959 when the runway was ripped up to make way for more industrial buildings.

Matching the picturesque history of the airport, Grand Central is an airy, well planned and ecologically and aesthetically pleasing industrial park.

Under the direction of Moseley, who is president, and William Clough, vice president and general manager, the centre has grown rapidly. Currently 84 firms occupy buildings at the centre, just north of the intersection of the Ventura and Golden State Freeways.

Planning of the centre covers not only the wide streets, expansive parking and loading facilities and the beautiful landscaped grounds but the buildings themselves.

Grand Central, a private corporation, owns all the land and buildings at the centre. The buildings, built to tenant specifications in some cases, are leased to occupants with terms varying from 20 years to month to month.

Because all the buildings are planned and built by Grand Central, they are designed to complement each other. Also there is no chance that an unsightly pollution factory can move in.

In fact, says Clough, Grand Central has declined a lease to firms whose manufacturing process would cause excess pollution.

The emphasis is on efficiency, flexibility and convenience for the firms that live at Grand Central and a pleasant, unclogged atmosphere for employees. Wide loading docks, broad streets, all utilities, and even railroad service are among the features offered to tenants.

With open, industrial zoned land at a premium in Glendale Grand Central is constantly changing to meet the needs of the industrial community. Older buildings are replaced with newer ones and established tenants expand and grow within the advantageous atmosphere of Grand Central.

AMF Inc., one of the many nationally known firms located at the centre has expanded its original building adding 6000 square feet.

One of the latest firms to choose Grand Central is Fortner Accessories Service Corp., a distributor of helicopter parts. The firm has moved into a 10,000 square foot building at 1316 Flower St.

Clough credits the success of the centre to several factors. One advantage is the available transportation. Within a half mile of the centre there are five on-ramps for the Golden State and Ventura Freeways. Glendale's low tax rate is another advantage for industry.

Growth of the centre, as measured by property taxes, is tremendous. In the 1930s, when the airport encompassed about 184 acres. Clough said the taxes were about $14,000. Currently the property tax on the centre is about $700,000.

The centre currently has about 2 million square feet of occupied building space. Among the many well known firms at Grand Central are Chrysler Corp., Walt Disney Enterprises, Bell and Howell Co., Bekins Moving and Storage, Agfa-Gevaert Inc., Cory Coffee Service and Clairol Inc.